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MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN NUCLEAR, RADIATION AND WASTE SAFETY

MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE YEAR 2000 (Y2K) ISSUE

Draft resolution recommended by the Committee of the Whole

The General Conference,

(a) Noting that many Member States are faced with the prospect of problems with digital systems in their civilian nuclear power plants, fuel cycle and/or medical facilities which use radioactive materials as a result of the Year 2000 problem,

(b) Understanding that many Member States may not be able to fully diagnose and remediate problems identified through testing of digital systems in those facilities,

(c) Concerned with the prospect that many Member States may not be aware of actions being taken elsewhere to diagnose and remediate problems associated with the Year 2000 problem in nuclear power plants, fuel cycle and medical facilities which use radioactive materials, and

(d) Aware that time for corrective action and contingency planning is growing short,

1. Commends the actions already initiated by the Secretariat to assess the scope of the problem and co-ordinate with Member States;

2. Urges Member States to share information with the Secretariat regarding diagnostic and corrective actions being planned or implemented by operating and regulatory organizations at their nuclear power plants, fuel cycle and/or medical facilities which use radioactive materials to make those facilities Year 2000 ready;

3. Encourages the Secretariat, within existing resources, to act as a clearing-house and central point of contact for Member States to exchange information regarding diagnostic and remediation actions being taken at nuclear power plants, fuel cycle and/or medical facilities which use radioactive materials to make these facilities Year 2000 ready;

4. Urges the Secretariat to handle the information provided by Member States carefully;

5. Emphasizes that, if they have not done so already, Member States should take all necessary efforts to have contingency plans in place at operating and regulatory organizations well before December 31, 1999 in order to handle potential problems which may arise at that time at those nuclear facilities; and

6. Requests that the Director General report to it at its forty-third (1999) regular session in response to this resolution.